REMARKS

Claim 1 remains in the application. Claims 2 and 3 have been previously withdrawn from consideration. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 1 is in independent form.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent Application Publication No. US 2001/00397890 to Matsuki et al. ("the '890 reference.") Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The '890 reference discloses a reinforcement device 110 including a first part 111 having side walls 117 and a second part 121 having side walls 127. The side walls 117, 127 include respective outward flanges 116, 126. Clamping members 132 may have a symmetrical U-shape to tightly fit along the adjoining outward flanges 116, 126 to clamp the flanges 116, 126 to one another. Alternatively, a clip 135 engages apertures 137 in the flanges 116, 126. If the clips 135 are a thermosetting material, the clips 135 will expand and thermoset when heated and produce foamed products 136 that close the apertures 137. The first 111 and second 121 parts may be optionally adhered together by the foamed products 136.

Applicant has amended claim 1 of the above-captioned application to clarify the invention. More specifically, claim 1, as amended, claims metal profiles being connected to each other by plastic material connections formed by injecting a plastic material into openings in superimposed contacting surfaces, the plastic material connections extending through the openings and enclosing the flat edge sections around the openings.

Applicant respectfully submits that the '890 reference does not provide any suggestion or motivation for the claimed invention as set forth in amended claim 1 of the above-claimed invention. The '890 reference discloses the clip 135 for attaching the first part

111 to the second part 121. The clip 135 can be a material that closes the apertures 137 formed in the flanges 116, 126. The clip 135 does not, however, enclose the flanges 116, 126 as the alternate fastener, the clamping members 132, do.

In contrast, claim 1 of the above-captioned application claims plastic material connections formed by injecting a plastic material into openings in superimposed contacting surfaces, the plastic material connections extending through the openings and enclosing the flat edge sections around the openings. There is no suggestion or motivation in the '890 reference for the plastic material connections extending through the openings **and** enclosing the flat edge sections around the openings. In the '890 reference, the clips 135 join the first 111 and second 121 parts to one another by filling the apertures 137 formed in the flanges 116, 126. One skilled in the art viewing the '890 reference would find the clips 135 adequate for joining the first 111 and second 121 parts. **Thus, there is no suggestion or motivation in the '890 reference for one skilled in the art to extend the clip 135 so that the clip 135 encloses the flanges 116, 126, as the plastic connection materials (26) in the above-captioned application.**

Moreover, the disclosure of the clamping members 132, which extends around the flanges 116, 126, in the '890 reference only bolsters this conclusion. The clamping members 132 and the clips 135 are presented as alternatives; one may be replaced by the other but each is sufficient on its own to attach the first part 111 to the second part 121. Thus, the '890 reference does not provide any suggestion or motivation for the plastic connection materials extending through the openings and enclosing the flat edge sections around the openings, as set forth in claim 1 of the above-captioned application.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of claim 1 of the above-captioned application as being unpatentable over the '890 reference be withdrawn.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the '890 reference (Matsuki et al.) Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As mentioned above, the '890 reference discloses a reinforcement device 110 including a first part 111 having side walls 117 and a second part 121 having side walls 127. The side walls 117, 127 include respective outward flanges 116, 126. Clamping members 132 may have a symmetrical U-shape to tightly fit along the adjoining outward flanges 116, 126 to clamp the flanges 116, 126 to one another. Alternatively, a clip 135 engages apertures 137 in the flanges 116, 126. If the clips 135 are a thermosetting material, the clips 135 will expand and thermoset when heated and produce foamed products 136 that close the apertures 137. The first 111 and second 121 parts may be optionally adhered together by the foamed products 136.

Applicant has amended Claim 1 of the above-captioned application to clarify the invention. More specifically, claim 1, as amended, claims metal profiles being connected to each other by plastic material connections formed by injecting a plastic material into openings in superimposed contacting surfaces, the plastic material connections extending through the openings and enclosing the flat edge sections around the openings.

The '890 reference does not disclose a plastic material connections extending through the openings and enclosing the flat edge sections around the openings. In the '890 reference, the clamping members 132 tightly fit along the adjoining flanges 116, 126 to attach the first 111 and second 121 parts to each other. The clamping members 132 do not,

however, extend through openings in the flanges 116, 126; the clamping members 132 instead clamp around the flanges 116, 126. This is clear from the fact that the flanges 116, 126 do not have openings in the embodiment disclosing the clamping members 132. Moreover, the clip 135 in another embodiment of the '890 reference extends through openings 137 but does not enclose the flanges 116, 126.

Therefore, it is clear that the '890 reference does not disclose a plastic material connections extending through the openings and enclosing the flat edge sections around the openings, as required by claim 1 of the above-captioned application.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 of the above-captioned application under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the '890 reference be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that this patent application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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